

that the service request composed on the field service unit is for operational servicing of a medical diagnostic system of interest. As noted above, the Jago et al. reference does not disclose composing such a service request, or transmitting such a service request to an automated service facility. Accordingly, claim 23 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be clearly allowable over the Jago et al. reference.

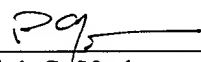
**Conclusion**

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the drawings and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for providing field service to medical diagnostic equipment, the system comprising:

a medical diagnostic station configured to store medical image data;

a field service unit configured to generate service requests for operational servicing of the medical diagnostic station, identifying a standard service function from a plurality of service functions and a unique identifier for the medical diagnostic station; and

a service facility configured to be coupled to the medical diagnostic station and to the field service unit via network links, the service facility including a service request management device for receiving the service requests from the field service unit, accessing data stored at the medical diagnostic station as defined by the standard service function, and transmitting data to the field service unit in response to the service request.

8. (Amended) A system for accessing operational data from a medical diagnostic station, the system comprising:

an automated service facility including a server configured to recognize and execute a plurality of predefined service functions, the service functions each including accessing operational data for a medical diagnostic station; and

a field service unit configured to be coupled to the automated service facility via a network link, to generate service requests, and to transmit the service requests to the automated service facility for operational servicing of the medical diagnostic station, each

service request including identification of a predefined service function and an identification of at least one medical diagnostic station.

16. (Amended) A method for remotely obtaining operational data from a medical diagnostic station, the method comprising the steps of:

composing a service request on a field service unit, the service request including identification of a service function from a plurality of predefined service functions and a medical diagnostic system of interest, the service request relating to operational servicing of the medical diagnostic system;

transmitting the service request to an automated service facility;

accessing operational data from the medical diagnostic system of interest via the automated service facility as defined by the at least one service function; and

transmitting data based on the accessed data from the automated service facility to the field service unit.

23. (Amended) A method for providing remote service to a plurality of medical diagnostic systems, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a menu of predefined service functions;

composing a service request on a field service unit for operational servicing of a medical diagnostic system of interest, the service request including identification of at least one of the predefined service functions and at the medical diagnostic system of interest;

transmitting the service request to an automated service facility;

executing the service function for the medical diagnostic system of interest; and

transmitting a response message to the field service unit;